

July 2006 Roadway CADD User's Group Meeting

CADD Issues:

Models – When and where can we use them. The upcoming 8.8 release of Geopak does not "support" models and there is no plans in the future for Geopak to "support" models. Geopak does handle models in the following manner: In the case where Geopak is retrieving information, it will scan ALL models in the file. In the case where Geopak is writing information, it will write ONLY to the active model (whichever model is active at time of last Save Settings).

Roadway Design is currently experimenting with the use of models with Structure Rec's and PHM's. Roadway is also currently testing one project (R2107B) with profiles to see how they effect other units downstream (Geotech and Hydro). We will continue to look at other methods of using models if they can prove to be beneficial.

PDEA Levels – HEU levels now available. The Human Environment Unit now has their own workspace and CADD IT is working to get all of PD&EA their own individual workspaces. It was discussed that Roadway keep reminding PD&EA that we need electronic files from them and not have them ask us to put in their designs. Please also keep Ed Williams aware of any issues where PD&EA is having problems designing or plotting as he is their CADD support and would like to know.

Typical Section Generator Demo. Eddie Douglas demo'd the latest TS_Generator. This application is in the Roadway workspaces

Parcel Index Demo. Eddie Douglas demo'd the latest Parcel Index application. This application is in the Roadway workspace. A process is currently underway for L&S to start placing parcel numbers back in their files for us to use and not create new ones. Once ready, it will be demonstrated.

PDF's – Creating from MicroStation. Mike Tyndall went over some of the plot drivers and pen tables he has worked on for pdf file creation in MicroStation. The different pen tables are for plan sheet production and cross section sheets. The different drivers allow for gray scale plotting and color. Please note that you are able to turn levels on and off in the pdf file if you are using Acrobat 6.0 or higher. These files are currently located on the S: drive under Share>>CUG. Once these files have been standardized they will make the Roadway workspace. Tutorials are available on our website under Index>>pdf

Training – IT has room available for others that need V8 updates. CADD IT's training list is small. If anyone in Roadway Design would like to sign up for MicroStation or Geopak training, now is a good time. Please see Roadway Support to get your name on the waiting list.

R/W Markers – Placement and origin. Old R/W markers center of origin was actually not the center of the cell. This has been recently fixed. However, L&S has a program that downloads the coordinates of these markers with out having any manual typing. If you placed the old cell by data

point and did not move it to make it “look” centered, everything will be okay. If you moved the old cell to make it look centered **AND** L&S uses their new program, they might come back to you inquiring about the differences between the label and the coordinates not matching. You will just need to explain this to L&S or re-arrange all your R/W markers.

Trnsprt – Quantity Manager update. Jim McMellon is continuing to work on exporting from Quantity Manager into Trnsprt. Trnsprt PES recommends aecXML format and there might be a need for NCDOT to develop some XML schema.

Other Issues:

Archiving – Discuss current system. Jim discussed how the current (or should we say lack of current) system works. Basically if you aren’t going to work on a project for a couple of months, one should back up their TIP folder (at least the Roadway folder) to CD (or DVD depending on size).

Information on how to burn a CD is on our website at:

http://www.ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/highway/roadway/index/cd_burning/cd_burning.html

There is also information and a list of projects that have been officially archived on the web at:

<http://www.ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/highway/roadway/index/archive/archive.html>

Web Stuff – Layout of web site. General discussion about the website was discussed. Comments for ways to improve the website were asked for and one comment already implemented was changing the dates of the Policy Memo’s from old first to the latest memo’s listed first. Other suggestions are always welcome to Roadway Support.

Trouble Shoot Forms – Reasons they are required. Jim discussed the urgency in using the support forms for each question. The support forms are sent to five members of CADD support and ask specific questions for each type of problem. Individual emails might not get answered if the person is on vacation or out of the office. Other emails sent directly to Roadway Support require replies back asking for different information (file location, dates, gpk names....). While customer service is a number one goal, more efficient service can be obtained if everyone will follow the following protocol:

Ask someone in your squad first, if no one there can help, ask your CUG representative. If that fails, then please use the support forms located at:

S:\Share\RD_InternalWeb\&6@3(2\forms\RRF_main.html

PDF’s – Need to create from other apps. Jim just asked that everyone ask around and see if there is a need for others to create pdf files from other applications other than MicroStation. We will re-visit this issue at the next meeting to determine need.

Google Earth – Is there a need on the floor? Google Earth may be downloaded by any user who’s supervisor has determined the need to use.

Open Discussion – Time permitting. None, no time remained.